difference. Of late years the automobile is having more widespread effect than either the railway or the steamboat. Thousands of miles of highways are being constructed for it. Many of these have been built by foreign famine relief agencies, and others for military purposes, but most of them by Chinese for civilian use. Judged by the standards of the United States or Western Europe, they leave much to be desired. Usually they are without any other surface than that of the native earth, and carts, wheelbarrows, and bad weather often work havoc with them. On many roads, however, efforts are made to reserve either the whole or one track for the exclusive use of automobiles, and a few have received a rock dressing. Moreover, bad though many of the new highways are, they are traversed by motor busses, and each year sees hundreds of miles more of such lines in operation. It is said that by 1931 over six thousand busses were in operation and that twenty thousand miles of road were available for them. Since then the mileage has been largely increased. Busses are usually crowded. Hamlets and villages formerly a day or more apart by the old methods of travel are now removed from each other by only a few hours. Even though road surfaces do not yet permit of much transportation of freight by automobile, the increased mobility of the population cannot but have far-reaching consequences in rural life.

A few products from the West have been widely spread, notably kerosene, the kerosene lamp, cotton goods, matches, and the cigarette. Imports of grain from abroad have affected domestic markets in some regions accessible by steamship or railway. For instance, occasionally American wheat can be

purchased at a lower price than the home grown product.

As serious a dislocation of agriculture as any has been the devotion of a great deal of land to the opium poppy. As we have seen, in the 1920's numbers of military leaders compelled farmers to raise the poppy, for opium provided a convenient source of revenue. In this way thousands of acres were withdrawn from the production of foodstuffs and raw materials for clothing, and dire want was still further accentuated. Opium not only directly diminishes the vitality of those who use it but indirectly further impoverishes the nation. Chiang Kai-shek fought it but undei the Japanese it flourished.

In some districts the demands of foreign trade have worked